



The residents of the Shabaruri Center are guests of The Amsterdam Manor Resort

Aruba's Foundation for the Mentally Challenged consists of several facilities, which care for individuals of varying ages and abilities. The Center Shabaruri is the home to a number of adult "clients" that reside there. This year, The Amsterdam Manor Resort, in celebrating their fifteenth anniversary decided to "adopt" the Shabaruri center and its residents, seeing to the needs of the home in not only contributions, but with the time and attention of the Amsterdam Manor employees, and action that has become a labor of love for all those that work at the resort.

The community action began in July with the Amsterdam Manor management taking on the task of giving Shabaruri a facelift, painting and fixing whatever needed it. Each month they have executed a particular project such as planting a fruit and vegetable garden for the residents to maintain, and building chicken coops so they can also raise flocks of chickens. The Amsterdam Manor Resort employees have set aside time on a regular basis to visit the residents, spend time with them and participate in various activities. The resort received the "clients" of Shabaruri as their guest for the four day period from Sunday, December 18 until Wednesday, December 19 while interior renovations were being made on the Shabaruri residence, which made it uninhabitable for those four days. During their time at the resort, the Shabaruri residents and their caregivers were treated like royalty, with an all-inclusive package that provided them three meals a day in the resort's elegant restaurants, and an evening out at the Tulip restaurant on the Eagle Beach. They also enjoyed a day of fun with organized beach games, and another day of touring the island to see the Christmas decorations and the City of Lights at Seroe Preto. On their final night, the residents got up to dance and join the show which is the regular Tuesday evening activity in the oceanfront Mango Restaurant, accompanied by a barbecue buffet.

Center director Omyra Leysner was thrilled with this gift from the resort and the joy it brought her "clients" and in particular grateful not only for all the Amsterdam Manor has done, but also for the new beds that await all the residents on their return, donated by the resort.

A number of the regular guests of the resort expressed some curiosity about these "special guests" and it pleased them very much to see this display of community action and generosity by the resort. They also enjoyed the demonstration during the Tuesday night show of the joie de vivre of the residents, as they showed island visitors how to do the island dances.

The management of the Amsterdam Manor stated that the work with the Shabaruri Center will be an ongoing project of the resort personnel, and will not end with the official end of the fifteenth anniversary celebration. Many of them have grown quite attached to the residents, and wouldn't mind seeing them back again at the resort for another visit, as their pleasure in the attention in the experience is so evident.